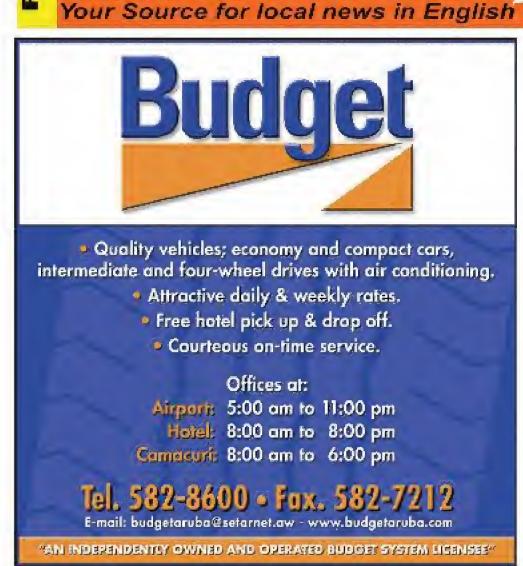
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Friday, May 31, 2013

THE SUIT CAYA G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.



Venezuela threatens to end support for Colombia peace

Botoga (AFP) - Venezuelan opposition leader Henrique Capriles on Thursday denounced as "blackmail" a threat by Caracas to end support for talks to end Colombia's civil war over his visit with Colombia's president.

President Nicolas Maduro's government—threatened—to withdraw its support from the peace talks after Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos met with Capriles Wednesday at the presidential palace here.

A photograph of Santos and Capriles shaking hands was released after their meeting, provoking a swift and angry reaction from Caracas which announced it was recalling its delegate to the peace talks in Havana.

"It is very difficult to work toward peace for a brother nation when the major institutions of that nation are provoking and stimulating the destabilization of Venezuela," Venezuelan Foreign Minister Elias Jaua said Wednesday.

He said bilateral relations between the two neighbors had been "derailed" by the visit.

Capriles told Colombia's Blu radio said it was "unacceptable" for Venezuela to try to tell the president of Colombia whom he could meet with.

"Peace can never be the subject of blackmail," he said.
"Either you want peace and work towards peace, or you don't want peace. There can be no middle position."

Capriles is seeking international support for his demand for a recount of April 14 presidential elections to replace the late Hugo Chavez, who died of cancer March 5.

Maduro was proclaimed the winner against Capriles by a 1.5 percent margin, but Capriles insists the elections were stolen.

Colombia, which had tense relations with Caracas during most of Chavez's 14 year rule, has made an effort under Santos to put relations on a friend-lier footing while opening peace negotiations with the FARC, the country's largest leftist guerrilla group.

PACO Conference with special focus on childhood obesity

In 2011 Minister of Health Richard Visser brought the first PACO Conference (Pan American Conference on Obesity) to Aruba. That conference generated a great deal of positive reactions both locally and from the region. Chronic diseases is what many of the countries in the American continent is battling with constantly.

One of the major concerns of all of these countries is the

Suspicious letters sent to White House, NY mayor

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A suspicious letter addressed to the White House and "similar" to an apparently poison-laced letter sent to New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg has been intercepted, the Secret Service said Thursday.

"The White House mail screening facility intercepted a letter addressed to the White House that was similar to letters previously addressed to Mayor Bloomberg in New York," Secret Service spokesman Edwin Donovan said.

"This letter has been turned over to the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force for testing and investigation," Donovan said in a short statement sent to AFP.

Two letters sent last week one to Bloomberg and one to
an official with the gun laws
group he helped found, Mayors Against Illegal Guns -- appeared to be laced with ricin,
according to preliminary tests,
New York police said.

Bloomberg told CBS late Wednesday that the letter sent to him was "obviously" meant to show opposition to his lobbying for tighter gun laws

Continued on pg 6





combating childhood obesity





high cost of these diseases for their populations. In Aruba, likewise we are concerned and like in other parts of the world, we know that we must combat obesity with full force.

Obesity is one of the major causes of non-transmittable chronic diseases. The Aruba government is concerned about our future generations. The PACO III Conference is being held here on Aruba. This conference will include a number of international

speakers, who together with local professionals will continue our emphasis on combatting obesity and prevent non-transmittal diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension, heart diseases and metabolic syndrome.

On the 6th of June they will dedicate a whole day to different workshops - eight workshops in all occuring simultaneously.

Continued on pg 2



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IBISA and Department of Health announce: Today as No Smoking Day

The Best Way To Quit Sm@king



tion (WHO) dedicates different days in the year to public health. One of those days is May 31st, which has been designated World Tobacco Free Day.

Every year on this day WHO focuses on the health risks associated with the use of tobacco and advocates the effective reduction of the use of tobacco. This year's theme is: "Eliminate the advertisement, promotion and activities sponsored by tobacco."

We all know that smoking is bad for your health, and that smoking is a killer. Here are some statistics of the seriousness of the problem:

According to WHO tobacco kills almost 6 million people around the world every year, of which 5 million die directly as a result of tobacco use and more than 600,000 per-

sons, who do not smoke, but are exposed to tobacco smoke ("second-hand smoker").

In Aruba, acording to a STEPS 2006 investigation, 1 out of almost 10 persons (12.6%) between ages 25 and 64 years of age smoke every day, the majority being males. Those who smoke, smoke everyday for almost 25 years having begun at age 18. A total of 14 cigarettes are smoked per day which costs the smoker about Afls. 8.75 every day.

If this is not enough reason to quit smoking, here are ten more good reasons:

1. You save money. A pack of eigarettes costs between 11 and 15 Florins!

2. You don't have to stand outside isolated from others to smoke. More and more places are prohibiting in-door smoking.

Continued on pg 3

PACO Conference with special focus on childhood obesity Continued from pg 1



The conference will begin at 8:30 and continue through to 5:00 pm. Some of the topics of the workshops are:

Active Aging and the prevention of Childhood Obesity; A guide to nutirition and the prevention of obesity; The management and treatment of pediatric obese patients; Prevention of childhood obesity and the school environment: "Scaling up meaningful and successful industry engagement through convergent innovation," among others.

Speakers at these workshops are international health professionals who will share



their expertise with our professionals for a better future for our chidren.

The PACO Conference will start on June 5 until June

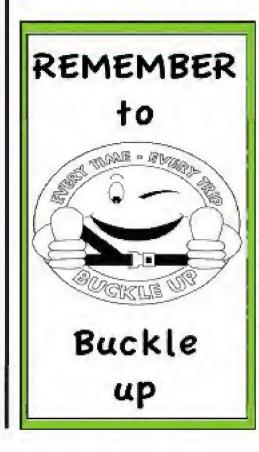
For more information conwebsite: www.paco.aw and click on PACO III 2013. To register em ail m.giel@arubagovemment.aw.



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A friendly game of Beach Tennis for Marriott Associates



Winners Corey Guest and Robert Guidice and 1st runners up Eldrick de Cuba and Rowald Croes



Marriott Ladies beach tennis competition

Recently, the Aruba Marriott organized a beach tennis competition as a part of the monthly MITAGANA games at Moomba Beach, Fifteen teams of two from various departments showed their enthusiasm and team spirit on Friday afternoon. The grand prize went to executive team GM's Corey Guest and Robert Guidice who beat Casino Accounting Eldrick de Cuba and Rowald Croes in the final round.

MITAGANA is an interdepartmental event which takes place every month for all Aruba Marriott associates. At the beginning of each year the Associates Relations Committee (ARC) schedules monthly activities based on all departments' opinion. The idea of the MITAGANA games is to bring associates together during a sports activity.

During these activities associates gets to meet coworkfrom different departments. The activities take place on and off property with great prizes for the winners. Some of the upcoming activities scheduled for the remainder of the year are paintball, basketball, go karts, kayaking and dominos.

A reminder from the DTI: All motorists should pick up their vehicle inspection approval sticker

ORANJESTAD - The Department of Technical Inspection (DTI), section Vehicle Inspection, reminds all motorists whose vehicle has passed inspection this year and have not received a sticker of approval, to obtain their sticker as soon as possi-

In order to get the sticker, motorists must go to the DTI offices at Pos Chiquito 47 with their approval certificate. The stickers are available from 11:00 to 11:45 a.m. and 2:30 to 3:15 p.m.

DTI, section Vehicle Inspection personnel will submit stickers of approval until June 30, 2013. To get a sticker of approval after that date, the vehicle must be inspected again.

DTI also reminds all motorists who have an appoint-

spect their vehicle, to please show up on time. Those who are not prompt for their appointment tomorrow, will not get a new appointment for the following Saturday.

DTI is doing its utmost to help all motorists to have

their vehicle inspected and kindly ask that everyone show up at the time stipulated for their appointment. If for any reason you cannot, please advise DIT so they can schedule another vehicle for inspection.





IBISA and Department Today as No Smoking Day

Continued from pg 2 Your car, clothes, hair, home need not smell of cig-

arette smoke. 4. You need not chew gum or mints in order to kiss

someone. 5. Set a good example for your children.

6. No need to have stained fingers and teeth.

7. No need to have a bad taste in your mouth upon waking up in the morning

8. Non-smokers pay less life insurance premiums.

You are healthier. Your family is health-

ier. Remember they are also affected by your smoking ("second-hand smoke")

There are different professionals, apparatus and/or methods to help people stop smoking. Choose the one that suits you and take maxımum advantage to stop smoking. Better yet, if you have never smoked, chose never to start the deadly habit.

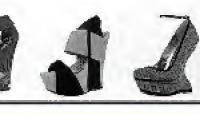


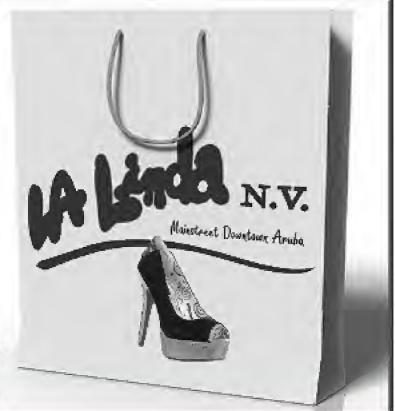
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In a moving and heartfelt gathering

The Salamander Group presents quarterly donation checks



A congenial gathering at the new Caribbean Clothing and Co. on the Main Street, Caya Betico Croes 32, convened representatives of eleven local not-for-profit foundations, for the purposed of check presentations.

The presentations were made by key Salamander Group associates, as the funds donated that evening resulted from their endeavors, under the company's Tikkun Olam Corporate Responsibility program.

The program, named after an ancient Kabala concept which translates from Hebrew as "the Repair of the World," supports local foundations working on behalf of kids, adults and the elderly.

The way the fund-raising works is the following: Each client shopping at the Salamander Group stores is asked to choose between a number of good causes, on the receiv-

ing end of a percentage of his purchase.

Donations are presented quarterly, and regardless of the state of the world's economy or the state of the island's economy, the Salamander Group associates and its members of management forge on, collecting funds for causes they strongly believe in, in accordance to their Repair of the World philosophy.

The gathering at Caribbean Clothing and Co. explained Managing Director Jodi Tobman, also served to celebrate those men and women who volunteer for the foundations and work so hard for the community, making Tikkun Olam, an everyday reality here.

Tikkun Olam is well-established at the Salamander Group, with stores such as T.H. Palm & Company at Playa Linda Beach Resort, and the Caribbean Queen at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall, leading the fund-raising drive in collaboration with more than 50 multi-national associates, who often forgo raises, and newer equipment in order to keep the program going.

While the company has been fund raising since 2004, Tikkun Olam was formulated and instituted in 2007.

We are proud to donate a percentage of every purchase to support Aruba's charities; it is our way of expressing our gratitude to the Aruban community, which we are so happy to be a part of, says Jodi. Many of us came for faraway lands to live here, and now feel mutually responsible for the less fortunate members of our island.

The evening's check recipients were as following: Fundacion Autismo Aruba, represented by Dilma

Arends, Koningin Wilhelmina Kanker Fonds, represented by Ivi Hernandez & Bojoura Richard, Stichting Edmund E. Harms, represented by Julisca Harms, Telefon pa Hubentud, represented by Nemesis Trappenberg & Sherman Millian, The Clown Doctors represented by Rona Coster, The Pancake Gallery, operating Art Rules Aruba, represented by Ira & Ayra Kip's mon; The

Alzheimer Foundation, represented by Robby Croes; The Aruba International Arts Foundation, represented by Stan Kuiperi and Ateliers' 89, represented by Elvis Lopez. Two other organizations, Fundacion pa nos Grandinan Centro Kibrahacha, and Fundacion pa Hende Muhe den Dificultad, were given donations in absentia.

Continued on pg 5





The Salamander Group presents quarterly donation checks ...

Continued from pg 4



The evening's best part was the moving, honest and direct dialogue by donation recipients who each talked about their foundation, and the innate challenges and hardship that go hand in hand with volunteer work, and the resulting sense of satisfaction this kind of sacrifice inevitably delivers.

Dilma described the efforts made by Fundacion Autismo Aruba, to educate and enlighten the public about the condition; Ivi & Bojoura explained about the Cancer Foundations labor to establish support systems for patients and their families; Julisca reported on the hospice care provided to terminally ill patients at no cost, thanks to fund raising efforts such as Tikkun Olam; Nemesis and Sherman told the forum about the free help line available to more than 8000 kids ages 8 to 18, with adult volunteers ready to listen every day during after-school

hours, and Rona talked about the Clown Doctors visiting sick kids and dementia patients, attempting to provide companionship and companion. Mrs. Kip talked about her daughters and their initiative resulting in a summer camp for artist children; Robby talked about Alzheimer on Aruba; Stan weighed in with his dream to build a children's museum here and Elvis shared about his successes in taking kids off the street and into art programs.

The special evening truly brought recognition to the foundations, and celebrated the success of the Salamander Group with its Tikkun Olam idea, thinking globally and acting locally.

Attending the event on behalf of the Salamander Group, associates Gabriela Ribbink, Del de Guzman, Digna Torres, Nilo Arcilla, Rowena Banal, Lina Sarmiento, Julie Partosemito,

Isha Arana, Janella Gamarra, Karin Kalter and David Archer, who reiterated their commitment to social, educational and health projects.

The evening was organized by the company's new Sales and Marketing Administrator Isha Arana, and was catered by the Funchi Gals who presented a fine selection of home-made, organic, hors d'oeuvres.

Remember that when you visit the stores, T.H. Palm & Company, The Coconut Trading, The Lazy Lizard, The Juggling Fish, Caribbean Queen and the Caribbean Clothing Co., you are in fact serving your community, and making the work of Aruba's unsung heroes, the volunteers working for the not-for-profit-foundations, easier.

In her closing remarks Managing Director Jodi Tobman thanked the media for its support, and thanked her staffers for embracing her vision of a better world.

Mexican climber sets Everest record with double summit



KATHMANDU (AFP) - A veteran Mexican climber was confirmed on Thursday as the first person to climb Everest from both sides of the mountain in the same season.

David Liano Gonzalez, 33, reached the top of Everest on May 11 from the south side, and days later started his second successful ascent of the world's highest mountain from the north side.

Gonzalez, who says he has now climbed Everest five times in total, was awarded the official record certificate from Guinness World Records at a ceremony in the Nepal capital on Thursday.

"I am very happy to have set this record," Gonzalez told reporters.





Suspicious letters sent to White House, NY mayor Continued from pg 1

The letters contained "anonymous threats" and "when tested locally, preliminarily indicated the presence of nicin," New York Police Department spokesman Paul Browne said.

"The writer, in letters, threatened Mayor Bloomberg, with references to the debate on gun laws."

ABC television posted what it said was an exclusive picture of the letter sent to Bloomberg on its website. The stained, type-written letter, containing numerous spelling errors, reads:

"You will have to kill me and my family before you get my guns. Anyone wants to come to my house will get shot in the face.

"The right to bear arms is my constitutional God given right and I will excersice that right til the day I die. whats in this letter is nothing compared to what ive got planned

for you." Bloomberg's lobbying group plans to spend \$12 million on a national ad campaign to counter the National Rifle Association.

Bloomberg said he was "not angry" about the letters, and that the incident did not change the deadly realities of mass gun ownership in the United States.

"There's 12,000 people that are going to get killed this year with guns, and 19,000 that are going to commit suicide with guns, and we're not going to walk away from those efforts," he said.

"I know I speak for all of the close to 1,000 mayors in the mayors' coalition against guns. This is a scourge on the country that we just have to make sure that we get under control and eliminate."

The killing of 20 children and six adults in the Newtown elementary school shooting rampage in Connecticut led to widespread calls for tighter gun laws.

But under pressure from the NRA, Congress failed to pass even heavily watereddown legislation drafted in the wake of the tragedy.

Billions stolen from Sochi 2014 Gamesi **Putin** critic

MOSCOW (AFP) - A renowned Kremlin critic on Thursday accused President Vladimir Putin's government and its allied tycoons of stealing tens of billions of dollars assigned for construction of the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi.

Opposition leader and former top cabinet member Boris Nemtsov and his report's co-author Leonid Martynyuk -- a member of the anti-Kremlin Solidarity movement -- said about \$25-30 billion of the estimated \$50 billion assigned to the Games has gone missing.

"The Winter Olympic Games in Sochi have turned into a monstrous scam," Nemtsov and Martynyuk wrote in the report.

Putin has already expressed frustration at the rising costs in Sochi, with the Games now on track to become the most expensive in Olympic history.

The money is supposed to be spent on the construction of new Sochi sports facilities as well as the repair of everything from roads and hotels to the laying of new railways and the creation of a bullet train sys-

Most of the projects have been assigned to giant firms that are either directly owned by the government or run by tycoons who are on close terms with the Kremlin.

The two authors wrote that their conclusions came from a six-month study of data and analysis of various cost overruns.

AFP freelancer gets Pulitzer photo prize



NEW YORK (AFP) - Javier Manzano, a freelance photographer working for AFP in Syria, received a prestigious Pulitzer prize Thursday in New York for his artistic photograph of a rebel sniper's nest in Aleppo.

The ceremony at Columbia University was attended by several hundred people celebrating America's highest journalism award, as well as prizes for literature, theater and music.

Manzano, 37, said he was "honored" by his feature photography nod for the picture taken in October, showing rebel fighters lit up by sunlight coming through bullet holes in the side of a warehouse.

"It is also mixed feelings

and lots of my colleagues can relate to that," he said.

"You are receiving an award in recognition for a war that is still going on and will still go on for the foreseeable future, with horrible consequences for both sides. I hope that this furthers the message of Syria and what is going on there on a daily

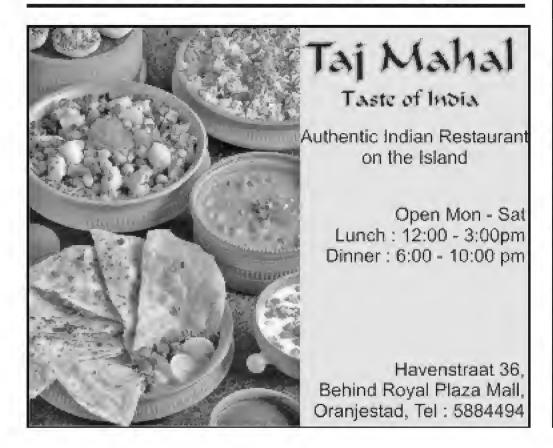
He received a \$10,000 cash award, along with the certificate.

Paul Tash, chairman of the Pulitzer Prize board, said the quality of entries was high, despite crashing budgets for news organizations.

"My first Pulitzer board meeting was in 2006, a highwater mark in advertising revenues for American newspapers," he said.

"Since then, the combination of economic crisis and competition from digital alternatives has sent advertising revenues plummeting by more than half Today, 15,000 fewer journalists have jobs at American newspapers than in 2006."

Manzano, who is unmarried and calls Istanbul home for now, said he does not have any immediate plans for the future. But he hopes to return to Syria and head for other hotspots in the region "for the next couple of years."







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International News

Father of Chechen killed in Boston probe wants FBI agents tried

MOSCOW (AFP) - The father of a Chechen man shot dead by the FBI during questioning about his links to the Boston Marathon bombers said Thursday he wanted the agents tried for "executing" his son.

Ibragim Todashev, 27, was shot by FBI agents in Florida a week ago during questioning at his home about his links to one of the Tsamaev brothers alleged to have carried out the April 15 Boston bombings.

The FBI said the agents had shot Todashev in self defence after the suspect lunged at them during questioning.

Todashev's father Abdulbaki showed reporters in Moscow what he said were pictures of his son's bullet-riddled body.

The photographs showed at least seven bullet wounds to the body of a young man resembling Ibragim Todashev -including one to the back of the head

Abdulbaki said he had received the photographs of his son by email from Muslims in Florida.

Local media initially cited investigators as saying he had attacked an FBI agent with a knife. Yet the Washington Post on Thursday quoted a law enforcement official saying Todashev was unarmed.

Investigators said Todashev was on the verge of signing a confession that he and Tamerlan Tsamaev had played a role m an unsolved triple homicide.

Todashev's father added that his son must have had information that investigators wanted to keep secret.

Israel readying for regional deterioration: Netanyahu

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israel is gearing up for a deterioration in the regional situation, with a growing number of new threats facing the Jewish state, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said

Netanyahu made the comments as he watched an exercise simulating the response to a chemical attack on a residenneighbourhood Jerusalem as part of an annual civil defence drill.

His remarks came after several ministers raised the alarm over the planned delivery of Russian anti-aircraft missiles to Syria, where President Bashar al-Assad has been waging a bloody two-year war against insurgents bent on overthrowing him.

"These things we are seeing

here are meant to protect Israel from an accumulation of new threats. These threats are piling up around us," he said in remarks communicated by his bureau.

Earlier, public radio said Netanyahu had ordered his cabinet to stay silent on the issue of Russian missile deliveries to Syria a day after two senior ministers criticised Moscow and warned that Israel would not sit quietly if it felt under threat.

Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon had on Tuesday warned Israel would "know what to do" if Russia delivered anti-aircraft missiles to Assad.

"The deliveries have not taken place, and I hope they do not. But if, by misfortune, they arrive in Syria, we will know

Iranian-American gets 25 years

what to do, " he told reporters.

Israel has launched several air raids inside Syria this year, targeting convoys transporting weapons to its arch foe Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Deputy Foreign Minister Serger Ryabkov said the missiles were a "stabilising factor" which could act as a deterrent against foreign intervention, as fears grow that the Syrian conflict, which has claimed more than 94,000 lives, could spill over into neighbouring coun-

Meanwhile Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said on Thursday there was "popular pressure" to open a military front against Israel on the Golan Heights, which the Jewish state has occupied since 1967.

British soldier murder suspect appears in court

LONDON (AFP) - One of the chief suspects in the brutal killing of a British soldier on a London street appeared in court on Thursday charged with murder and possession of a firearm.

Michael Adebowale, 22, spoke only to confirm his name and address at the bnef hearing at Westminster Magistrates' Court, before being taken back into custody.

Another man, Michael Adebolajo, 28, has also been arrested but remains in hospital after he and Adebowale were shot by police at the scene of the murder of soldier Lee Rigby on May 22.

Rigby was hacked to death in broad daylight near his barracks in Woolwich, southeast London.

Adebowale, a British man of Nigerian descent from Greenwich, near Woolwich, was taken to court in an armoured van in a convoy of police cars.

He limped as he walked into the court and held his right hand close to his body.

Adebowale was also treated in hospital and was discharged on Tuesday before being formally charged late Wednesday.

Handcuffed and wearing a grey sweater and white trousers, he was flanked by two police officers and two security guards as he stood in the glass dock to hear the charges against him.

Asked to confirm his name. address and date of birth, the suspect calmly replied: "Yes".

He is accused of murder and of possessing a revolver with intent to cause others to believe that violence would be used.

Both suspects were filmed and photographed at the murder scene by witnesses, but legal restrictions prohibit the reporting of further details from the attack.

Another eight people have been arrested by counter-terrorism police as part of the investigation. Two women were released without charge and six men were released on bail.

NEW YORK (AFP) - Iranian-American citizen Manssor Arbabsiar was sentenced comed the result.

prison in Saudi plot

Thursday to the maximum 25 years prison by a US judge who said his role in a bizarre plot against the Saudi ambassador to Washington could not be "tolerated."

Arbabsiar, 58, pleaded guilty last October to conspiring with Iranian military elements to hire assassins from the Mexican drug maña to kill the Saudi envoy.

New York federal Judge John Keenan told the court that Arbabsiar "fully realized his act. He must learn the lesson."

Defense lawyers argued that Arbabsiar was not fully responsible because he suffered from bipolar disorder, but Keenan said he'd been found competent and he dismissed lawyers' request for a sentence of just 10 years.

Arbabsiar, wearing a blue prison outfit, read from a prepared statement in a quiet voice, saying: "What I did wrong I take responsibility. I can't change it. I never hurt anyone. My mind is sometimes not in a good place."

Top New York federal prosecutor Preet Bharara wel-

"Manssor Arbabsiar was an enemy among us -- the key conduit for, and facilitator of, a nefamous international plot concocted by members of the Iranian military to assassinate the Saudi Ambassador to the United States and as many innocent bystanders as necessary to get the job done," he said in a statement.

The plot, if carried out. would have caused "unspeakable harm," Bharara said.

Arbabsiar was arrested in September 2011 at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, leading to a major

legal and diplomatic drama between Washington and Tehran, amid already tense relations.

He was charged along with co-defendant Gholam Shakun. a senior member of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard's elite Ouds Force, who is at large.

Iran strongly denied any involvement in what the United States said was a plot originating with the Ouds Force, Iran's covert external action unit, to kill the ambassador by hiring assassins from a Mexican drug cartel for \$1.5 million.

To set up the alleged hit, Arbabsiar allegedly arranged for \$100,000 to be wired to the United States as a down payment, the indictment said.



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Health & Living

WHO urges action against obesity as poor nations get fatter



GENEVA (AFP) - Alarmed at expanding waistlines around the world, the UN's health agency has urged countries to get serious about reining in a ballooning obesity crisis, proposing an action plan that includes taxing unhealthy snacks and rules against marketing junk food to children.

Once considered only a problem in high-income countries like the United States, where nearly 70 percent of the adult population is overweight, obesity is now growing fastest in developing nations in Africa and Latin America, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

As the urgency to tackle the crisis grows, member countries of the UN body late on Monday adopted a 2013-2020 action plan to fight against diseases like cardiovascular illness, cancer, and chronic diabetes.

"The cost of inaction far outweighs the cost of taking action," the body said.

The plan, which targets nisky lifestyle choices such as smoking, alcohol consumption and an unhealthy diet, includes a goal to halt the rise in global obesity levels by 2020.

Obesity levels nearly doubled between 1980 and 2008, when at least one in three adults worldwide was overweight and around one in 10 was considered obese, according to the WHO.

At least 2.8 million adults die each year as a result of being overweight or obese, not counting the large percentages of diabetes, heart disease and cancer cases attributable to overweight, according to the UN agency's numbers.

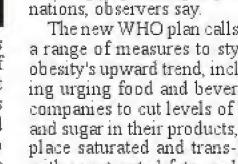
The world's fattest country is the tiny South Pacific island nation of Nauru, where 71 percent of the population is considered obese, WHO figures

The newly adopted plan "is

extremely important in addressing one of the most devastating health crises of our time," said John Stewart of the watchdog Corporate Accountability International, describing obesity as "an epidemic".

Since foods high in fat, sugar and salt are often cheaper than healthier alternatives, the battle against the bulge is increasingly spreading to poorer

The new WHO plan calls for a range of measures to stymy obesity's upward trend, including urging food and beverage companies to cut levels of salt and sugar in their products, replace saturated and trans-fats with unsaturated fats, and reduce portion sizes.



And in a world where more than 40 million children under the age of five are overweight, it also calls on countries to strictly control the marketing of unhealthy foods and drinks to children.

EU to check US wheat for GM contamination

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The European Commission said yesterday it has asked EU member states to check imports of wheat from the United States which may be tainted with a genetically modified strain made by US agrochemicals grant Monsanto.

The Commission, the European Union's executive arm. said it had informed the 27 member states of the problem, "recommending (they) test the consignment of soft white wheat" in question.

"In case of a positive confirmed result, the consignment shall not be placed on the market," it said in a statement.

Soft white wheat accounts for about 80 percent of US

wheat imported annually by the EU, with most of it going to Spain.

The Commission noted that there "are no GM wheat varieties approved for sale or in commercial production in the United States or elsewhere at

It had contacted the US Department of Agriculture to ask to be kept informed and had also got in touch with Monsanto, it said.

"The Commission is following carefully the presence of this non-authorised GM wheat in Oregon in order to ensure that European consumers are protected ... and to make sure that the EU zero tolerance for such GM events is implemented."

The EU currently allows only two GM products to be grown in the bloc -- Monsanto's MON 310 maize and German conglomerate BASF's Amflora potato.

Renewal of the maize licence is currently on hold due to hostility or reticence by a string of EU states.

Brussels cleared MON 810 in 1998 for 10 years and Monsanto submitted a request in 2007 for it to be extended but the process has been effectively frozen.



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Sci-Tech

Apple chief sees computers on wrists - not in glasses

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) -Apple chief Tim Cook said he sees promise in computers shrunk down and worn like watches or other accessories, but drew the line at Internetlinked eyewear such as Google Glass.

He predicted there will be "tons of companies playing" in the wearable computing sector but sidestepped a question as to whether Apple would be among them with the creation of a rumored "iWatch" device to be worn on the wrist.

"I don't know a lot of people that wear (glasses) that don't have to," a bespectacled Cook said in a sideways shot at Google Glass.

"The wrist is interesting," he continued in comments live-blogged by AllThingsD. "You still have to convince people it is worth wearing. Most young people don't wear a watch."

Many developers attending an annual Google I/O event sported Glass as part of an "explorer" program to tinker with creative applications for the eyewear, which cost \$1,500 a

Cook rejected the notion that Apple has lost its cool factor and said he was not worned about pressure from competitors such as Samsung, which has seized the crown as the world's top smartphone maker.

He noted that Apple sold 85 million iPhones and 42 million iPads in the last fiscal quarter and that devices powered by the company's iOS software account for about 59 percent of mobile Internet traffic.

Cook said that Apple has quietly acquired nine companies so far this year and more take-overs could be on the horizon

Cook also said that Apple rejected a settlement in an e-book price-fixing case heading to US federal court because it called for the California company to sign an admission of wrongdoing in the matter.

Pacaya volcano erupts in Guatemala

GUATEMALA (AFP) - Guatamala's Pacaya volcano erupted early Thursday, sending volcanic material more than 400 meters in the air, authorities said.

The Institute of Vulcanology warned that the eruption could intensify with ash rising as high as 1,000 to 2,000 meters, posing a threat to air traffic at Guatemala's international airport.

"Ash could spread over Guatemala City due to the direction of the wind," the country's disaster response office said in a statement.

The last major eruption of Pacaya in May 2010 claimed the life of a television journalist, drove thousands of people from their home, and forced the closure of the Guatemala City airport for five days.

The 8,373-foot (2,552 meter) high Pacaya is 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of the capital. It is one of three active volcanoes in Guatemala.

Startup glasses overlay Internet on real world



MOUNTAIN VIEW (AFP) - While Google prepares to release eyewear that provides a window to the Web, a startup on the edge of its campus is readying glasses that overlay the Internet on the world in 3D.

Atheer Labs on Thursday provided the first public look at prototype eyewear that lets people manipulate virtual objects, maps and more in the air in a style reminiscent of a scene in the film "Minority Report."

Itani and Atheer chief technology officer Allen Yang described what their team is building as an extension of the trend of sophisticated mobile technology bringing Internet services to people when they want.

"The next step, we believe, is natural interaction through computer vision," Itani said.

Atheer is working on versions of the eyewear that access the Internet by wirelessly connecting to smartphones or Wi-Fi hotspots and which have telecom chip capabilities to link to mobile phone networks. A prototype device in the Atheer office in a building on the Google campus in the Silicon Valley city of Mountain View allowed a virtual map to be scanned with the turn of a head and virtual objects manipulated.

News stories could have images come alive with what Itani and Yang called "Harry Potter style" pictures.

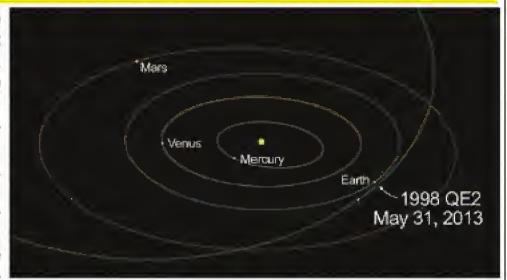
He gave the example of a wearer pausing to window shop and having discounts, exclusive items or other information pop up for them to see.

Atheer is designing voice controls and camera capabilities into the Android-powered eyewear, which will keep Internet imagery invisible until it is needed or until summoned with a gesture.

To address the kinds of privacy concerns that have been expressed about Glass, Atheer is developing a way for businesses or property owners to detect when devices enter and ask that camera features be turned off

Giant Rock Sails Past Earth Today

-- Astronomers around the world are gearing up to get their first close-up views of a giant space rock set to hurtle by Earth today. Called 1998 QE2, this asteroid is considered a potentially hazardous object because it makes a regular close approach to Earth's orbit. (Related: "Asteroid Impacts: 10 Biggest Known Hits.") QE2 is a true mountain in motion, stretch-



ing 1.7 miles (2.7 kilometers) across—nine times the length of the 12-deck Queen Elizabeth 2 cruise ship. There is no chance of a collision. The asteroid will pass by at 4:59 p.m. EDT at a safe distance of 3.6 million miles (5.8 million kilometers)—15 times the distance separating the Earth from the moon. This is the closest approach the asteroid will make to our planet for at least the next two centuries. Despite its relative distance from Earth, QE2 will still be visible to backyard telescopes (at least four to six inches in mirror size) as a faint 11th magnitude star



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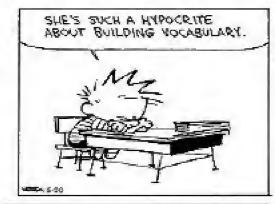


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ACROSS

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- 4. Swedish rock group
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- perch 11. Provoke
- 12. Enthusiasm
- 13. Scourge
- 14. Actress Dolores _
- Rio 15. Famed Southern
- plantation 16. Tallies
- 17. Corrects
- 19. For fear that
- 20. System of moral principles
- 22. Certain boxing wins (abbr.)
- 24. Take your best
- 25. Rummy variety
- 29. Actress Dawber
- 30. Aches and _
- 32. Cut branches
- 33. ___ Falls
- 35. Airborne toy
- 36. New York time (abbr.)
- 37. Corn chip brand
- 39. Less than twice
- 42. Old Testament prophet
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- 45. Classify
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- 53. Bows slightly
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- channel
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- 38. Religious ceremonies
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FINANCE



Dish boosts bid for Clearwire to counter Sprint

NEW YORK (AFP) - Dish Networks raised its offer for the broadband service firm Clearwire, countering a bid from telecom carrier Sprint, which is locked in a heated battle with the satellite television provider.

In an announcement late Wednesday, Dish offered \$4.40 per share in cash, responding to last week's revised bid from Sprint at \$3.40 per share for the 50 percent of Clearwire it does not already own.

The new offer came just ahead of a Clearwire stockholders' meeting Friday on the matter

"The Clearwire spectrum portfolio has always been a key component to implementing our wireless plans of delivering a superior product and service offering to customers," said Charlie Ergen, chairman and co-founder of Dish.

Dish is seeking Clearwire's spectrum as part of an effort to build a company that could deliver a fully integrated, nationwide bundle of video,

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

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television, broadband Internet and voice services.

Dish has made a separate bid for Sprint itself for \$25.5 billion, in an effort to head off its acquisition by Japanese mobile giant SoftBank.

Sprint wants Clearwire's spectrum and broadband WiMax network, which is becoming more valuable with the surge of mobile Internet use.

SoftBank is set to acquire 70 percent of Sprint, the number three US carrier behind AT&T and Verizon Wireless, later this year, if shareholders and US regulators approve the deal.



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Venezuela says OPEC ready to hold output

VIENNA (AFP) - Venezuelan Energy Minister Rafael Ramirez suggested yesterday that OPEC was set to maintain its oil output ceiling this week, adding that the 12-nation grouping would seek to defend the key price level of \$100 per barrel.

"We are all in agreement to maintain the 30 million (barrels per day) production total, even if some countries are overproducing," Ramirez told reporters on the eve of the cartel's output meeting in Vienna.

The comments appeared to mark a shift in tone in Venezuela's position, after the Latin American nation had indicated earlier in the week that it was open to an output reduction.

"Fundamentally, (Venezuela's position) is maintaining a minimum price level of \$100 per barrel This is an implicit agreement of all OPEC countries, benefitting all countries, and there is a consensus on that," Ramirez said, stressing that "our preoccupation is the minimum price".

Asked about the effect of increasing US shale oil production on Venezuela, he replied: "We are not impacted by any means. We had decided some time ago to diversify our markets. This was a good thing to do.

"We are now selling to China and we have concluded an agreement to sell to India."

Analysts expect that OPEC will leave its oil output ceiling at 30 million barrels per day, where it has stood since the end of 2011, despite actual output running above this target level.

France hits record 3.26 million jobseekers in April

PARIS (AFP) - The number of registered jobseekers in France, the eurozone's second-largest economy, rose by 39,800 in April to hit a record 3.26 million, the labour ministry said on Thursday.

April was the 24th consecutive month of rising unemployment, as Socialist President Francois Hollande struggles to revive an economy that fell into recession in the first quarter of 2013.

The rise, equivalent to 1,326 new jobseekers per day, represented a 12.5 percent increase over a year ago.

When the partially employed and jobseekers in France's overseas territories are included, the figure for April rose to 5.09 million registered unemployed. Hollande on Thursday pointed to "a lack of competitiveness" and low opportunities for youth as problem areas, speaking at a joint press conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

But he nevertheless said he was maintaining his longstanding pledge to create more jobs in France -- one of the key promises of his presidential campaign last year.

France's unemployment rate hit a 14-year high of 10.6 percent at the end of last year, and the OECD has forecast that it will rise to 10.7 percent this year and 11.1 percent next year.

On Thursday, the CFDT -one of the country's leading
unions -- called for everyone
to mobilise to reverse the
trend.

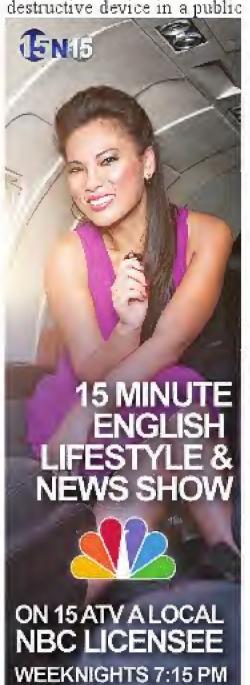


Disneyland worker charged over theme park blasts

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A
22-year-old Disneyland
worker has been charged after
two explosions which triggered the evacuation of part of
the California theme park, officials said Thursday.

Nobody was seriously injured in the small blasts allegedly involving "dry ice bombs" in the Mickey's Toontown section of the park in Anaheim, southeast of Los Angeles. Initially police said there was only one blast.

Christian Barnes has been charged with possession of a destructive device in a public



place, and faces a maximum sentence of six years in state prison if convicted, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said in a statement.

Describing Tuesday's alleged incident, the FBI said two water bottles containing dry ice went off separately as he was ending a shift on a vending cart outside Toontown, an area of the park aimed at younger children.

"Sometime after 4:00 pm, a female employee went to relieve the defendant from his shift at a vending cart... Barnes is accused of opening the vending cart, at which time the first water bottle containing dry ice exploded.

Barnes then allegedly took the second device and dropped it in a trash can in Toontown, which would typically be crowded with parents and youngsters visiting colorful homes of Disney characters.

"Several minutes later a custodian was removing trash bags... and removed the bag containing the destructive device. The custodian put the bag on the ground and walked a short distance to clear an ther trash can.

"While the trash bag was on the ground, the water bottle exploded," it said.

"The investigation is ongoing. Some victims have reported ringing in their ears," the FBI said, adding that Barnes was expected to be held on \$500,000 bail after being arraigned in Los Angeles on Thursday.

Disneyland spokeswoman Suzi Brown earlier said: "We take matters like this very seriously and are working closely with local authorities."

Tunisia topless protester faces new charges



KAIROUAN (AFP) - A
Tunisian judge on Thursday
announced fresh charges
against a young Tunisian
woman with the topless
protest group Femen, as three
Europeans began a second
night in custody after baring
their breasts.

Amma Shoui, better known by her pseudonym Tyler, was remanded in custody and would be charged with indecency and desecrating a cemetery, crimes punishable by up to two years in jail, the presiding judge told AFP.

At the next hearing, set for June 5, she will be charged under the "criminal conspiracy" section of the penal code, where relevant articles carry possible jail terms of up to 12 years, the judge added.

Should had gone on trial for illegal possession of pepper spray in Tunisia's religious capital of Kairouan, where she was arrested earlier this month after painting the word "Femen" on a wall near a cemetery.

She was fined 300 dinars (150 euros) for the pepper spray charge, court officials said.

Separately, the justice ministry said three European members of Femen arrested on Wednesday for baring their breasts outside the central court in Tunis to demand Shoui's release will remain in custody.

The protest by the European activists was the first of its kind in the Arab world and shocked many in socially conservative Tunisia, where Muslim extremists have become increasingly assertive since the 2011 revolution.

Their three women's lawyer, Souheib Bahri, said the charges against them would be known today.

Bon Jovi to rock unpaid in crisishit Spain

MADRID (AFP) - US rock supergroup Bon Jovi will waive their fee for playing a concert in recession-hit Spain next month, media reported on Thursday, with special low-price tickets for Spaniards struggling in the crisis.

Tickets for the gig in the giant Vicente Calderon football stadium in Madrid are capped at 39 euros (\$50) -- a fraction of the top price in other countries on the band's "Because We Can" European tour.

Lead singer Jon Bon Jovi, 51, told newspaper El Mundo the economic conditions in Spain, where millions are unemployed and spending less, had threatened to knock the country off the tour list.

So as not to disappoint fans, he said the band agreed to play for free with ticket revenues covering the cost of staging the show and hiring the venue, which is home to Atletico Madrid football club.

"Bon Jovi want to change the trend of exorbitant prices that stop fans from coming to many big concerts," the concert's organisers said, announcing the special ticket prices.

"Rock 'n' roll has always been for the people, and that means for everyone."

The fluffy-haired singer and his band, known for hits such "Livin' On A Prayer" and "You Give Love a Bad Name", launched the Europe leg of their tour on May 14.

The shows include songs from their recent album, "What About Now".



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5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an inter-

nationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy,

made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$4.49, (\$5.48, with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic. Rosie: so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda,



Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English waywith vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gournet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night, delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal

least is the future value of the

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays. with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the decor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www. goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

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NHL: Past four Stanley Cup winners face off in semi-



Bryan Bickell (29) of the Chicago Blackhawks celebrates his third period goal with Jonathan Toews (19) and Marian Hossa (81) in front of Jimmy Howard (35) and Brendan Smith (2) of the Detroit Red Wings in Game Six of the Western Conference semi-final .

CHICAGO (AFP) - For only behind goaltender Jonathan the second time in National Quick, who is on a roll again Hockey League history, the past four Stanley Cup champions have advanced to the best-NHL of-seven playoff semi-finals, which begin with two games on Saturday.

Defending champion Los Angeles, the surprise packet for the second year in a row, will open at Chicago in the Western Conference final while the Pittsburgh Penguins will entertain the Boston Bruins in the Eastern Conference final.

Not since 1945 have the previous four Cup champions booked semi-final spots and back then the league had only six clubs.

Boston won the 2011 crown, the first Stanley Cup for the Bruins since 1972, while Chicago took the 2010 title, the first for the Blackhawks since 1961, and Pittsburgh hoisted the trophy in 2009, the Penguins' first since 1992.

Los Angeles had never won the Stanley Cup until last year, when the Kings were the last team to qualify for the playoffs but charged to their first crown

Quick, who underwent back surgery after winning the playoffs Most Valuable Player award in last year's title run, went 18-13 with four drawn and a 2.45 goals-against average and has the Kings halfway to a title repeat.

"We're only halfway up the mountain," said Quick, whose Kings could be the first backto-back Stanley Cup winners since Detroit in 1997 and 1998.

Chicago will counter with netminder Corey Crawford, who went 19-5-5 with a 1.94 goals-against average and a 92.6 save percentage.

The Kings will have only three days of rest after outlasting San Jose in a seven-game second-round senes but the Blackhawks, who matched Pittsburgh with an NHL-best 36 wins this season, will have only two days after being taken to the limit by Detroit.

The Blackhawks spoiled the Kings' Cup-banner ceremony by winning their season opener in January at Los Angeles and

Chicago split two home games against the Kings in the regular season.

Chicago captain Jonathan Toews and star playmaker Patrick Kane each netted 23 goals for the Blackhawks this season while Marian Hossa has added 17. Jeff Carter's 26. goals pace the Kings with Anze Kopitar a key set-up man.

In the East, Pittsburgh has made its deepest playoff surge since the 2009 title run after leading the NHL this season with 3.38 goals a game and having the best power-play success rate in the playoffs at 28.3 percent.

Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin, Pascal Dupuis and James Neal provide firepower for the Penguins, but their title bid did not take hold until coach Dan Bylsma replaced Marc-Andre Fleury with 36year-old Czech goaltender Tomas Vokoun.

Vokoun is 6-1 with a 1.35 goals against average and a 94.1 save percentage since coming into the starting lineup in the first round.

Another veteran coming through for Pittsburgh is Jarome Iginla, obtained in a trade with Calgary. The twotime Canadian Olympic gold medalist has four goals in the playoffs for the Penguins.

Boston is backstopped by Finland's Tuukka Rask, who is 8-4 in the playoffs with a 2.22 goals-against average and a 92.8 save percentage.

Czech 41-year-old legend Jaromir Jagr, who led the Penguins to Stanley Cup titles in 1991 and 1992, now plays for the Bruns. The right wing was snagged by the Bruins after the Penguins landed Iginla.

SPORTS

Racing: Dettori cleared to race in time for Derby



PARIS (AFP) - Frankie Dettori has been given a last minute reprieve enabling him to compete in Saturday's Epsom Derby.

Detton, who won the Derby in 2007 on Authorized, had been given a six-month worldwide suspension at the end of last year for what was then described as "a serious infraction of the doping rules"

The 42-year-old Englishbased Italian later admitted it was for having taken cocaine.

Although his suspension was due to run out before the Derby, the British Horseracing Authroity said he must be given a clean bill of health by

French authority France Galop before he can race again in Britain.

And that has now been confirmed.

"On the 28 May 2013 Mr Lanfranco (Frankie) Dettori was seen by the Medical Committee at the France Galop premises," said a France Galop statement.

"Today (Thursday), the Medical Committee received the information it required. In the light of this latest evidence, it decided to lift the medical contraindication (an indication that something is ill-advised) on him race riding

Athletics: Nelson awarded 2004 Olympic shot put gold



Adam Nelson (left) gets gold, Joachim Olsen (right) silver after IOC stripped Yuriy Bilonog.

WASHINGTON (AFP) -American shot putter Adam Nelson was officially awarded the 2004 Athens Olympic gold medal on Thursday following the doping disqualification of Ukraine's Yuny Bilonoh.

The International Olympic Committee and IAAF, the global governing body for athletics, approved the change, which finally rewards Nelson for his achievement on August 18, 2004, in the ancient Olympic Stadium at Olympia,

The silver medal Nelson received in Athens after another silver four years earlier in Sydney was among a set of runnerup efforts for the US veteran, a

three-time worlds runner-up whose biggest win, until now, had been at the 2005 world championship.

Bilonoh had been declared the winner for a throw of 21.16 metres on the last of his six attempts. But when a 2004 drug sample was retested last year, it came back positive for steroids.

in the revised results, seventime US champion Nelson won with a throw of 21.16m on his first attempt, his only successful attempt of the competition.

Denmark's Joachim Olsen moved into Nelson's former silver medal spot at 21.07m while Spain's Manuel Martinez moved up to claim the bronze medal at 20.84m.



Baseball: Japan's Matsui to retire in July as a Yankee

NEW YORK (AFP) - Hideki Matsui, a Japanese outfielder who was Most Valuable Player of the 2009 World Series won by the New York Yankees, will sign a one-day contract in July so he can retire as a member of the Yankees.

The famed Major League Baseball team announced on Thursday that Matsui, who turns 39 on June 12, will announce his official retirement on July 28 at a ceremony before the Yankees play Tampa Bay, with whom Matsui played in 2012.

Matsui will be honored at the Yankees' scheduled 55th home game of the season, in tribute to Matsui's former Yankee uniform number, 55.

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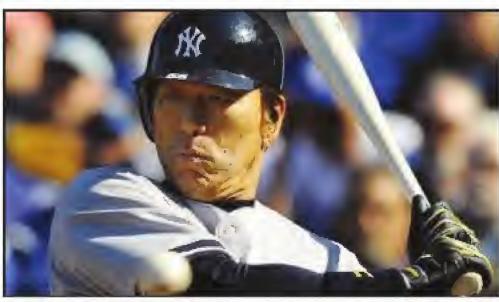
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After a decade with the Tokyo Yomiuri Giants of Japan's Central League, Matsui came to North America in 2003 and spent seven seasons with the Yankees, including their all-time record 27th World Series championship campaign.

Matsui hit .615 with three home runs and drove in eight runs during the 2009 best-of-seven final, in which the Yankees beat Philadelphia in six games.

As a Yankee, Matsui blasted 140 homers, 196 doubles and drove in 597 runs with a .292 batting average over 916 regular-season games.

The two-time All-Star spent the 2010 season with the Los Angeles Angels, the 2011 campaign with Oakland and last year with Tampa Bay, but he managed only two homers and seven runs batted in over 34 games for the Rays, batting a career-worst .147.

Nicknamed "Godzilla", Matsui ended his North American career with a .282 batting average, 175 homers and 760 runs batted in over 1,236 games.

Paterno family files lawsuit to overturn sanctions

BELLEFONTE (AFP) - The family of the late Joe Paterno filed a lawsuit Thursday seeking to overturn sanctions against Penn State University in the wake of the Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse case.

Several members of the Penn State Board of Trustees plus teachers, former players and coaches were among those who joined the family's 40-page lawsuit against the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

Former Penn State assistant American football coach Sandusky was found guilty last June on 45 counts of sexual abuse involving 10 boys over a 15-year period. He was sentenced to between 30 and 60 years in prison last October.

The scandal that erupted in November of 2011 when Sandusky was arrested led to the firing of Penn State gridiron coach Paterno, tarnishing his once-iconic legacy with claims he did not do enough to stop Sandusky once notified about an incident of child abuse.

Paterno, once among the most successful coaches in

collegiate gridiron history, died in January of 2012 from lung cancer at age 85.

Following Sandusky's conviction was last July's release of a report on the scandal by former FBI director Louis Freeh, a report the NCAA used as the basis to issue sanctions against Penn State rather than conduct its own probe.

The NCAA issued a fouryear ban on lucrative bowl games, put Penn State on probation for five years and vacated every Penn State victory since 1998.

The lawsuit claims the NCAA, NCAA president Mark Emmert and former NCAA executive committee chairman Edward Ray acted in violation of the group's own rules based upon a report, by Freeh, that was inaccurate and incomplete.

The lawsuit accused the NCAA, Emmert and Ray of civil conspiracy, breach of contract, defamation and commercial disparagement. It also seeks compensatory and punitive damages from the NCAA for improper conduct and breach of contract.

NBA: James, two Pacers fined for flopping

NEW YORK (AFP) - NBA Most Valuable Player LeBron James of the defending champion Miami Heat and Indiana's David West and Lance Stephenson were each fined \$5,000 on Thursday by the league for flopping

The punishments came for violations in game 4 of the Eastern Conference final, which the Pacers won 99-92 on Tuesday to level the best-of-seven series at two wins each. The winner will face the San Antonio Spurs in the NBA Finals.

Stephenson's flop, falling over or to the court after minimal contact from an opposing player, came in the last seconds of the first quarter when he tried to entice a foul call against



Miami's Ray Allen after incidental contact.

James and West were later accused of flopping when they made contact with each other near the basket on the same play with Miami leading 89-87 late in the fourth quarter.



PARIS (AFP) - Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian sporting director Leonardo speaks to the press after a hearing at the disciplinary commission of the French Football League (LFP) in Paris, on May 30, 2013. Leonardo could incur a heavy penalty after shoulder barging French football referee Alexandre Castro on the way to the locker room on May 5 at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris.

Tennis: Djokovic faces Dimitrov clash, Li slips up in Paris rain



China's Li Na hits a forehand shot

PARIS (AFP) - World number one Novak Djokovic moved effortlessly closer to a first French Open crown on Thursday while 2011 women's champion Li Na crashed out at a rain-rayaged Roland Garros.

Four rain stoppages, and then a final call-off, meant that there was only around five hours of play on a frustrating day which left women's champion Maria Sharapova stranded in her second round match.

But top-seeded Djokovic wasted no time in setting up a mouth-watering clash with Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov for a last-16 place.

The Serb, bidding to win a first French Open, and become just the eighth man to complete a career Grand Slam, eased past Argentina's world 83 Guido Pella, 6-2, 6-0, 6-2.

Dimitrov, the 26th seed, will be playing in the last 32 of a major for the first time after breezing past French wildcard Lucas Pouille, the world number 324, in straight sets 6-1, 7-6 (7/4), 6-1.

Djokovic lost to Dimitrov in the Madrid Masters second round earlier this month.

Chinese star Li went down 5-7, 6-3, 6-2 to brash American Bethanie Mattek-Sands in what was the 31-year-old's earliest defeat at the tournament in seven appearances.

As Mattek-Sands, the world number 67, looked forward to a third round match-up with Argentine qualifier Paula Ormaechea, Li was left surveying the wreckage of a second successive Roland Garros failure.

Twelve months ago, she went out in the last 16 to Kaza-khstan's Yaroslava Shvedova, who herself was beaten by Ormaechea on Thursday.

Mattek-Sands had lost to Li in the semi-finals on clay in Stuttgart, but admitted Thursday's win was one of her most satisfying.

"I knew Li wasn't going to give it to me. She's consistent and good in these situations," said the American.

Seven-time champion Rafael Nadal, who is hoping to become the first man to win the same major eight times, had only started warming up against Slovakia's Martin Klizan before rain meant his match was called off for the day

Third seed Victoria Azarenka went through with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Germany's Annika Beck.

Australian Open champion Azarenka, a quarter-finalist in Paris in 2009 and 2011, next faces France's Alize Cornet.



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The problem with drinking and driving is the mourning after.

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